

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein. The basis for this amendment can be found throughout the specifications, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendment and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vasileiadis et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,919,062). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Additionally, it appears that Examiner intended to identify Vasileiadis et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,919,062) and not Vasileiadis et al (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0073617).

At the outset, Applicant notes that amended claim 1 recites a “fuel cell system having a cooling fluid flowing therethrough, comprising: a fuel cell stack including a plurality of proton exchange membranes each having an anode side and a cathode side and a plurality of coolant passages extending between adjacent ones of said plurality of proton exchange membranes; and a conduit in communication with said coolant passages and through which said cooling fluid flows and comprising a first layer of hydrogen-permeable material, wherein hydrogen within said cooling fluid permeates through said first layer of hydrogen-permeable material to reduce a hydrogen content of said cooling fluid.” Vasileiadis discloses hydrocarbon, carbon oxide, and other feed

gases flowing through a permreactor-separator, yielding a hydrogen-based gas that can be supplied to an anode side of a fuel cell stack (Abstract, Fig. 11). Vasileiadis further discloses the permreactor-separator comprising a hydrogen permeable tube, which enables the separation of hydrogen from the post-reaction feed gases for use as fuel in fuel cells (col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 9). Vasileiadis does not disclose a conduit as claimed, in communication with the coolant passages of a fuel cell stack for reducing a hydrogen content of a cooling fluid.

Accordingly, the prior art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 1. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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